

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 VO-03 SCA-01

IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HEW-02 /081 W

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R 260531Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6120

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8580

DEPT PASS INFO ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF VS HK

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

1. IATF TEAM ARRIVED HONG KONG EVENING JULY 24 AND FOLLOWING DAY MET WITH CONGEN AND STAFF; VISITED SAI KUNG REFUGEE CAMP AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR OF HK IMMIGRATION MARTIN ROWLANDS, ASSISTANT POLAD DRACE-FRANCIS, AND ICEM REP STEWART. ON JULY 26 TEAM MET WITH UNHCR REP JACKSON AND COMPLETED DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGEN STAFF.

2. UPSHOT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGEN STAFF AND HKG OFFICIALS CONFIRMED DESIRE OF HKG THAT MOVEMENT BEGIN OF THESE 816 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY MEMBERS CURRENTLY CLEARED FOR PAROLE INTO THE US IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THIRD COUNTRY ACTIVITY; LIFT SAGGING REFUGEE MORALE AND PERMIT HKG TO CONSOLIDATE THREE WIDELY SEPARATED GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF CAMPS TO AT LEAST TWO. (ONE CAMP IS ON URBAN HK ISLAND AND TWO ARE ON EASTERN AND WESTERN FRINGES OF NEW TERRITORIES.)

3. HKG ATTITUDE: HKG OFFICIALS SUMMARIZED FOR TEAM THEIR EFFORTS TO DATE TO INTERNATIONALIZE RESETTLEMENT
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ABROAD OF SOME 3900 REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN HK AS RESULT

OF GENERAL EVACUATION OF VIETNAM. CURRENT FIGURES INDICATE THAT UP TO JULY 25, 1116 REFUGEES HAVE DEPARTED FOR THIRD COUNTRIES OR BEEN RESETTLED IN HK IN FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN:

CANADA	356
TAIWAN	1
US	128
AUSTRALIA	208
FRANCE	314
NEW ZEALAND	1
BELGIUM	5
GERMANY	1
SWITZERLAND	1
HONG KONG	101

4. UNHCR REP INDICATED THAT FOLLOWING CASES WERE PENDING DECISION:

CANADA	50
FRANCE	300
BELGIUM	40
IRAN	20
AUSTRIA	20
DENMARK	100

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OF CURRENT GROUP CLEARED FOR US, 60 INDIVIDUALS HAVE RELATIVES IN PENDLETON; 45 AT CHAFFEE; 18 AT EGLIN; 40 AT INDIANTOWN GAP.

5. HKG OFFICIALS INDICATED DIFFICULT LOCAL POLITICAL POSITION OF RETAINING SIGNIFICANT VIETNAMESE REFUGEE POPULATION IN FACE OF CURRENT HKG POLICY OF RETURNING TO CHINA ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

FROM MAINLAND. HKG AUTHORITIES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANTS IN HK, THEY HAVE TAKEN CAREFUL MEASURES TO INSURE NONE ENTER THE REFUGEE CAMPS AND THEREBY THE US REFUGEE PIPELINE. OFFICIALS STRESSED HK WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE LOCAL INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORT OF CONTACT WITH SOME 20 GOVERNMENTS FOR CURRENT REFUGEE POPULATION AS WELL AS PRESS LONDON TO TAKE A MINIMUM NUMBER. TEAM REASSURED HKG INTERLOCUTORS AS WELL AS UNHCR REP THAT CURRENT GROUP WOULD BE MOVED SOON. TEAM ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE US TO TAKE MORE THAN 1300 ALREADY CLEARED OR PENDING IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES AND SIGNIFICANT US RESETTLEMENT PROBLEMS. TEAM STRESSED CONGRESSIONAL VIEW THAT OTHER NATIONS DO A FAIR SHARE.

6. REPATRIATION: UNHCR REP INDICATED THAT HE HAD NO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON UNHCR/PRG/HANOI DISCUSSIONS ON REPATRIATION. REP ESTIMATED SOME 35-50 INDIVIDUALS IN REFUGEE POPULATION HAD FILLED OUT REPATRIATION QUESTIONNAIRES. ON REPATRIATION, HKG MOST FORTHCOMING, INDICATING THAT IT MIGHT, RPT MIGHT, BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR USE OF HK AS TRANSIT POINT FOR REPATRIATES ONCE MOVEMENT BEGINS.

7. PHYSICAL CONDITIONS: TEAM VISITED ONE OF THREE CAMPS CONTAINING 789 REFUGEES. PHYSICAL CONDITIONS CROWDED, BUT ADEQUATE. NO MALNOURISHMENT OR DISEASES EVIDENT, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITY AND REFUGEES ANXIOUS AFTER WAIT OF FOUR MONTHS. CROSS

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Message Attributes

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